

THE IDENTITY OF *BRUCHUS ARENARIUS* WOLCOTTBy L. J. BOTTIMER¹

In June, 1950, Mr. J. C. Bridwell visited the Chicago Natural History Museum to study the bruchid collection. He was much pleased to find the type of Wolcott's *arenarius*, which he immediately recognized as a typical *Zabrotes*. Inasmuch as the writer was studying this genus, Mr. Bridwell kindly gave him the above information to record.

The species was described from a single specimen collected by Prof. A. G. Vestal near Havana, Ill. In the Vestal report on a study of this sand prairie (1913:50) the following reference appears:

“*Bruchus arenarius* Wolcott, type unique. April 9.

Found on the sand between tufts of bunch-grass at the Devil's Hole.

(For description, see Wolcott, '12.)”

Pic (1913:15) listed the species under *Bruchus*. Leng (1920:305) used *Mylabris* (= *Pachybruchus*?). Bradley (1946:37) assigned it to *Megacerus*.

In July, 1955, the writer had occasion to make a northern trip where he also visited the Chicago Museum to examine the type of *arenarius*. Mr. Birdwell and the writer are grateful to Drs. Dybas and Wenzel for their cooperation during our visits.

The mounted specimen in question has several labels bearing the following data:

“Devil's Hole, Havana, Ill. April 9, 1911. On the sand between tufts of bunch grass. Col & pres. by A. G. Vestal. 234 Holotype *Bruchus arenarius* Wolcott TYPE”

The description fits the type satisfactorily. It is evident, however, that the describer was unacquainted with *Zabrotes* Horn (1885:156), because he attempted to key the insect in Fall's treatment of *Bruchus* (1910:160), where it ran to Group IV. This group included six species, five of which have been since assigned to *Megacerus* either by Bridwell (1929:112) or Blackwelder (1946:762).

Wolcott's *arenarius* is a good species. Since Bridwell and the writer consider *Zabrotes* a valid genus, the name of this hitherto unrecognized bruchid can now be known as *Zabrotes arenarius* (Wolcott), new combination.

On July 29, 1955, Dr. M. W. Sanderson and the writer spent a few hours collecting in the Mason State Forest, about 15 miles northeast of Havana, Mason County, Ill. The Forest is in the sand prairie area studied by Prof. Vestal, and is near the “Devil's Hole” locality. On

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this date, the legume, *Cassia fasciculata* Michx. (det. R. A. Evers, Illinois Natural History Survey), was in full bloom. The *Zabrotes* was taken in moderate numbers by sweeping a rather small colony of the plant. Several other colonies of this plant in the Forest gave negative results; however, two individuals were taken by the writer by sweeping the *Cassia* about 5 miles south of Bath, also in Mason County. On the following day, the writer again visited the Forest just before a shower, and was able to take only a half-dozen additional specimens from the *Cassia* at the first locality. No evidence of the host plant (i.e., larval) of the bruchid was noted.

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